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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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February 28, 1995

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The Honorable Jennifer Dunn
United States House of Representatives
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congresswoman Dunn:

This is in response to your letter to Chairman Hundt about the status of Teledesic Corporation's application to construct, launch, and operate a constellation of low-Earth-orbit ("LEO") satellites. We agree that global satellite systems have great potential to provide needed services and to stimulate economic growth and to make a major contribution to U.S. global competitiveness. To this end, the Commission recently awarded three licenses in the "Big LEO" satellite service to construct and launch systems capable of providing both voice and data mobile satellite services throughout the world.

Teledesic is one of over 300 entities seeking to construct communications systems in the 27.5-29.5 GHz band. The applicants propose three different types of systems. Two applicants, including Teledesic, propose satellite systems. One proposes feeder links for its Big LEO system. Over 300 applicants propose local multipoint distribution service systems, which are terrestrial systems that would provide interactive video and data services in the United States.

As you may know, the Commission conducted a negotiated rulemaking from July 1994 through September 1994 with industry representatives, including Teledesic, seeking to develop a sharing plan among the services seeking to operate in the 28 GHz band. Despite the best efforts of the parties, the negotiations ended without consensus on a sharing plan.

The Commission is making every effort to resolve the domestic licensing matters as quickly as possible. We are now drafting a further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will propose licensing procedures for the 28 GHz band. Teledesic's application is being considered in light of these circumstances. Because the application is mutually exclusive with others on file, it is subject to our ex parte rules. Consequently, we cannot discuss the merits of Teledesic's application. We will, of course, include a copy of your correspondence in the public record of this proceeding.

Thank you for your interest. Please let me know if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely yours,


Scott Blake Harris
Bureau Chief

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JENNIFER DUNN

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 31, 1995

PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE

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Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
FCC
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

On March 21, 1994, the Teledesic Corporation, headquartered in Kirkland, Washington, filed an application with the FCC for authority to construct, launch and operate a constellation of low-Earth-orbit satellites to provide a wide array of interactive broadband information services to rural and remote parts of the United States and the world.

Unfortunately, it is now approaching one year since Teledesic filed this application and it is my understanding that the FCC has yet to place the application on cut-off or to take any other official action with respect to Teledesic's filing.

Consequently, I respectfully request a status report on the commission's consideration of Teledesic's March 21, 1994 application. While I strongly endorse careful and critical examination of every application pending before the commission, I am concerned that a lengthy review process, rather than any substantive technological or policy concerns, may be responsible for delaying the implementation of Teledesic's promising technology.

The satellite industry is one where the U.S. enjoys clear worldwide leadership. But any technological lead is fragile in today's fiercely competitive global economy. If applications for global satellite systems, like Teledesic, falter at the FCC without action, the U.S. will be sacrificing its lead in these strategically critical technologies. In your appearances before Congress you have shown a keen appreciation of the domestic and international benefits of rapid development and deployment of advanced telecommunications technologies. You have also acknowledged the FCC's shortcomings with respect to the timely consideration of applications for the development of satellite services. Therefore, I am confident that you will give this matter your prompt attention.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

JENNIFER DUNN
Member of Congress

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